

1992 PROPERTY TAX LEGISLATION

The 1992 Legislature approved the following bills:

- ✚ 2nd ESHB1932 - School M&O Levy Limits. This legislation modified the calculations of the maximum school levies for maintenance and operation purposes beginning with levies due in calendar 1993. This will allow a slight increase in the amount of local M&O levies.
- ✚ SHB 2330 Forest Land Revision. This bill made several revisions regarding the treatment of forest land intended to encourage the continued use for timber production. It amends the open space law and the statutes governing valuation of forest lands for property tax purposes to allow exemption from special benefit assessments of forest lands.
- ✚ HB 2371 Conservation Districts. This measure allows conservation districts to levy special assessments for a period of up to 10 years without the approval of the county legislative authority.
- ✚ HB 2514 Senior Citizen Property Tax Exemption. This bill establishes a new method for calculating household income for the purpose of determining eligibility in the senior citizen/disabled person property tax exemption. In the event of the claimant or spouse, the average monthly income of the succeeding spouse for the period after the death may be used. This will enable some households to qualify for the exemption a year earlier than otherwise.
- ✚ SHB 2639 Homes for the Aging. This legislation amends the property tax exemption for nonprofit homes for the aging by increasing the maximum income level for eligibility from \$18,000 to \$22,000. It also phases in the exemption for proprietary homes that convert to nonprofit status and requires that the Department conduct a study of this exemption.
- ✚ ESHB 2928 Open Space and Forest Land Amendments. This bill amends statutes relating to forest land or agricultural, open space and timber lands. It creates a new category of “farm and agricultural conservation land” to cover land not currently devoted to commercial agriculture but has the potential of returning to that use.